

Sinclair Broadcasting uses the public airwaves free of charge; but their decision to unilaterally force their stations to air a dubious anti-Kerry documentary called "Stolen Honor" shortly before the election reeks of corporate totalitarianism masquerading as public interest.

When large companies control the airwaves, the public gets more of what's good for the corporate bottom line and less of what's good for our democracy. It's essential that when we turn on our TVs and radios, we can expect to hear from real people, from our own communities, about real news and real issues that matter to us, rather than being subjected to irresponsible propaganda from corporate headquarters aimed at cossetting shareholders' beliefs and tiptoeing around advertisers' demographics.

Sinclair's actions show why the FCC must strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them (at the very least, if Sinclair is entitled to air right-wing propaganda "in the public interest," then they should be legally required to air left-wing propaganda as prominently programmed and advertised.) Why is it that the FCC license renewal process involves no more than a returned postcard? Thank you.